

REMARKS

The present preliminary amendment and remarks are filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed on September 5, 2002. Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 14 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e); and claims 2-13, 15-25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. Claim 1-2, 14-15 and 26-27 have been amended. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made.”** Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome or are improper in view of the amendments and for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1, 14 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mastering Windows 3.1 Special Edition by Robert Cowart (Cowart). Of the pending claims, claims 1, 14 and 26 are the only independent claims. Claim 1 relates to an information processing apparatus and claims 14 and 26 relate to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, that are substantially similar to the apparatus of claim 1. Amended claim 1 relates to an information processing apparatus including storage means for repeatedly storing data in a number of given states each time the data is created or changed. Each of the given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which the data is stored. The apparatus further includes day and time setting means for setting a desired day and time. The apparatus also includes control means for locating data stored at the set day and time based on the time information, and for reproducing the given state of the data corresponding to the set day and time.

Thus, the information processing apparatus of claim 1 stores and retrieves data according to the time at which the data was created or changed. In this manner, many different copies of

the same data are stored based on the time at which the data was created and/or subsequently changed. For example, a first copy is stored when the data is created, a second copy is stored the first time the data is changed and a third copy is stored at a second time the data is changed. Each of these copies are separate copies having the given state of the data at the time the creation or change to the data took place. Accordingly, the apparatus of the present invention creates a time axis along which data can be repeatedly stored and subsequently reproduced in the given state at each of the times the data was stored.

In contrast, *Cowart* does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention as required by independent claims 1, 14 and 26. For example, *Cowart* does not teach or suggest an information processing apparatus including storage means for repeatedly storing data in a plurality of given states each time the data is created or changed, wherein each of the given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which the data is stored as required by amended claim 1. Indeed, the Office Action on page 4 admits that “*Cowart* provides only the date of the last storing of the stored data file” (emphasis added). In this regard, amended claims 14 and 26 each include substantially similar storage features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 14 and 26 are not anticipated by *Cowart*. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn and claims 1, 14 and 26 be allowed.

Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cowart* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,396 to *Jenson et al.* (*Jenson*). The Office Action primarily relies on *Cowart* for support of the rejection and therefore relies on *Jenson* to remedy the deficiencies of *Cowart*. Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 27 and 28 either depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 14 and 26. As previously discussed, *Cowart* does not disclose a number of features of the claimed invention as required by

independent claims 1, 14 and 26. Among the claimed features not disclosed by *Cowart* is the information processing apparatus including storage means for repeatedly storing data in a plurality of given states each time the data is created or changed, wherein each of the given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which the data is stored. *Jenson* is cited primarily for disclosing loading past or future screens. *Jenson* does not disclose the storage features absent from *Cowart*. Therefore, even if one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teaching of *Jenson* with that of *Cowart* (a point not conceded by Applicant), the resulting combination nonetheless fails to teach or suggest every element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn and claims 2-4, 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 27 and 28 be allowed.

Moreover, *Jenson* discloses a scheduler used on, for example, personal digital assistants or personal electronic organizers. *See, Jenson*, Col. 1, Lines 11-14. The scheduling program disclosed by *Jenson* is a standard daily scheduler that allows a user to enter information relating to an event such as an appointment or a meeting by selecting a time and day from a calendar. *See, Jenson*, Col 1, Lines 58-65 and Figure 3A. For example, a user might enter the location of a meeting scheduled for the selected time and day. This data or information is stored with reference to the future time and day, but it is not data that is repeatedly stored in a plurality of given states each time the data is created or changed, wherein each of said the given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which said data is stored as required by the claimed invention.

Claims 5 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cowart* and *Jenson* in view of United States Patent No. 6,141,005 to *Heatherington et al.* (*Heatherington*). Claims 5 and 17 depend indirectly from independent claims 1 and 14,

respectively. As described above, neither *Cowart* or *Jenson* teach or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention as required by claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that *Cowart* and *Jenson* are deficient with respect to claims 5 and 17 for substantially the same reasons that *Cowart* and *Jenson* are deficient with respect to claims 1 and 14. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 5 and 17 be withdrawn.

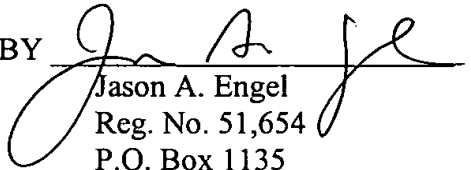
Claims 7, 10-13, 19 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cowart* and *Jenson* in view of Microsoft Outlook 97 by *Russell Borland*. Claims 7, 10-13, 19 and 22-25 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 14. As discussed above, neither *Cowart* or *Jenson* teach or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention as required by claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that *Cowart* and *Jenson* are deficient with respect to claims 7, 10-13, 19 and 22-25 for substantially the same reasons that *Cowart* and *Jenson* are deficient with respect to claims 1 and 14. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn and claims 7, 10-13, 19 and 22-25 be allowed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and earnestly solicit an early allowance of same.

It is further noted that no fees are due in connection with this application at this time. However, if any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the office is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. (112857-188) on the Account Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Jason A. Engel

Reg. No. 51,654

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4236

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1-2, 14-15 and 26-27 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
storage means for repeatedly storing ~~created or changed~~ data in a plurality of given states each time said data is created or changed, wherein each of said given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which said data is stored;
day and time setting means for setting a desired day and time; and
control means for locating data stored at said set day and time based on said time information and for reproducing said given state of said data ~~at~~ corresponding to said set day and time ~~at which said data was stored~~.
2. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means repeatedly stores a ~~created or changed~~ file in a plurality of given states each time said file is created or changed, wherein each of said given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which said file is stored, said day and time setting means sets said desired day and time according to a past or future screen, and said control means locates a file stored at said set day and time based on said time information, loads a corresponding past or future screen from said storage means, and reproduces said given state of said file corresponding to said set day and time along with said corresponding past or future screen.

14. (Twice Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:
repeatedly storing ~~created or changed~~ data in a plurality of given states each time said data is created or changed, wherein each of said given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which said data is stored;
setting a desired day and time;
locating data stored at said set day and time based on said time information; and
reproducing said given state of said data ~~at~~ corresponding to said set day and time ~~at which said data was stored~~.

15. (Twice Amended) An information processing method according to claim 14, wherein said storing step repeatedly stores a ~~created or changed~~ file in a plurality of given states each time said file is created or changed, wherein each of said given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which said file is stored, said day and time setting step sets said desired day and time such as to correspond to a past or future screen, said locating step locates a file stored at said set day and time based on said time information, and said control step reproduces said given state of said file corresponding to said set day and time along with said corresponding past or future screen.

26. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable distribution medium for providing a program, said program comprising:

a storing step for repeatedly storing ~~created or changed~~ data in a plurality of given states, wherein each of said given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which said data is stored;

a day and time setting step for setting a desired day and time;

a locating step for locating data stored at said set day and time based on said time information; and

a control step for reproducing said given state of said data ~~at~~ corresponding to said set day and time ~~at which said data was stored~~.

27. (Twice Amended) A distribution medium according to claim 26, wherein said storing step repeatedly stores a ~~created or changed~~ file in a plurality of given states each time said file is created or changed, wherein each of said given states is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which said file is stored, said day and time setting step sets the day and time according to a past or future screen, said locating step locates a file stored at said set day and time based on said time information, and said control step reproduces said given state of said file corresponding to said set day and time along with said corresponding past or future screen.